Amendments to the Claims

1.-20. (canceled)

21.   (currently amended) A method, comprising:

initially setting a voice over packet channel to voice mode at an originating gateway;

determining that a modem calling the gateway is a high speed modem;

determining if the channel has at least one of either voice echo cancellation or voice compression is enabled;

disabling voice compression and voice echo cancellation, if enabled;

enabling modem echo cancellation;

suppressing modem signals from the high speed modem from being transmitted by the originating gateway to a receiving modem through a receiving gateway;

negotiating with the high-speed modem to establish the connection, wherein the negotiation is a truncated, V.34 Phase 1 negotiation such that the originating gateway negotiates with the high-speed modem instead of allowing the high-speed modem to negotiate with the receiving modem; and

upon completion of the negotiating, establishing a modem relay connection.

22.   (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein determining that the modem is a high speed modem further comprises detecting a V.8 call menu.

23.   (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein negotiating with the high-speed modem further comprises:

performing a local, truncated phase 1 negotiation under International Telecommunication Union (ITU) standard V.34;

receiving two identical call menus from the high-speed modem;

completing the phase 1 negotiation and a physical layer startup under ITU standard V.8.

24.   (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor to set a voice over packet channel to voice mode at an originating gateway;

a code detector to determine that a modem calling the gateway is a high speed modem;

a signal suppression mechanism to suppress signals between the high speed modem and a receiving modem;

a pass-through mode invocation mechanism to:

determine if the channel has at least one of either voice echo cancellation or voice compression is enabled;

disable voice compression and voice echo cancellation, if enabled; and

enable modem echo cancellation; and

a proxy negotiation mechanism to negotiate with the high-speed modem to establish the connection and establish a modem relay connection, wherein the negotiation is a truncated, V.34 Phase 1 negotiation in which the proxy negotiation mechanism negotiates with the high-speed modem instead of allowing the high-speed modem to negotiate with the receiving modem.

25.   (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the code detector to determine that the modem is a high speed modem is further to detect a V.8 call menu.

26.   (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the proxy negotiation mechanism to negotiate with the high-speed modem is further to:

receive two identical call menus from the high-speed modem;

complete the phase 1 negotiation and a physical layer startup under ITU standard V.8.